

Starting February 17, 2009, the traditional analog signals used to broadcast television shows for the past 70 years will be abandoned in favor of an all-digital format. The only change for most cable and satellite subscribers will be a clearer picture. Most flat screen televisions already have built-in digital tuners, and other peripheral electronics, such as DVD players, VCRs and video game systems, won't be affected. But for those without digital tuners who still receive their signal using an antenna, you will need to either upgrade your equipment or acquire a converter to process the digital signal.

Between January 1, 2008, and March 31, 2009, all U.S. households will be eligible to request up to two coupons--worth \$40 each--to be used toward the purchase of digital-to-analog converter boxes. For more information about the digital changeover or the coupon program, visit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Web site at www.ntia.doc.gov. If you have questions about your equipment or what you may need to buy, visit www.dtv.gov or contact the Federal Communications Commission by calling 1-888-225-5322 or 1-888-835-5322 (TTY).

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